FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

18 JULY 1983

PLO Affairs

The PLO delegation headed by Political Department chief Faruq Qaddumi left Moscow on 16 July after receiving a Soviet affirmation of support for the PLO under Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat's leadership and after obtaining "all that it was seeking and in a way more than it expected from the Kremlin leadership," according to Palestinian sources in Moscow cited by KUNA. Sources close to the PLO stressed that Qaddumi's delegation left Moscow with a "marvelous impression" of the Soviet Union's dedication to the Palestinian cause under the leadership of 'Arafat and nobody else, KUNA added. One member of Qaddumi's delegation — PLO Executive Committee member Mahmud 'Abbas — subsequently announced that the Soviet Union supports the unity of the PLO, according to KUNA. DFLP Secretary General Nayif Hawatimah, who recently visited the Soviet Union, announced in Damascus that the Soviet leaders will shortly take steps to solve the crisis within Fatah and settle the Palestinian-Syrian dispute, KUNA also noted.

Meanwhile, after holding lengthy talks in Baghdad with Iraqi President Saddam Husayn on the "plots" against the PLO, Yasir 'Arafat returned to Tunis where he discussed the PLO's problems with a Cuban envoy, according to Baghdad Voice of PLO radio. 'Arafat subsequently arrived in San'a' to brief YAR President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih on the Palestinian situation, San'a' radio reported on 18 July.

In another development, 'Arafat revealed in an interview with the Amman paper *Sawt Ash-Sha'b* that he recently sent a message to Jordanian King Husayn asking permission to open a Palestinian research center in Amman following the closure of the center in Beirut.

Lebanon

Military, Security Situation — Israeli and Syrian forces exchanged fire in the Al-Biqa' area on 17 July, according to Voice of Lebanon radio. Earlier, seven IDF soldiers were wounded in an ambush south of Beirut, Jerusalem radio reported. The clandestine Voice of Arab Lebanon radio said that Lebanese National Resistance fighters carried out the operation and that two Israelis were killed. The radio also reported that three collaborators with the Israelis were executed in 'Ayn al-Hulwah camp on 16 July: Beirut radio confirmed that three Palestinians in the camp were killed by gunmen. Meanwhile, Druze and Christian militia continued to exchange fire in the Ash-Shuf area throughout the weekend, despite several cease-fire agreements, according to reports by Beirut radio.

Earlier, the Lebanese Army and police clashed with gunmen and demonstrators in Beirut opposed to official attempts to restore a school building in Wadi Abu Jamil to its owners, Beirut radio reported. Three soldiers and several gunmen were killed in the fighting, according to an Army command statement carried by the radio. The Army took "full control" of the situation and detained a number of gunmen, the statement added. The Shi'ite Amal Movement held the government responsible for the incident and called for a general strike and the government's resignation, Voice of Arab Lebanon reported.

Political Developments — Beirut and Voice of Lebanon radios carried contradictory accounts of Foreign Minister Elie Salim's CBS television interview given during his current visit to the United States. While Beirut radio reported that Salim said neither Israel nor Syria plan to partition Lebanon, the Voice of Lebanon quoted Salim as saying that both Israel and Syria have "ambitions and interests in Lebanon" and "aim to partition it." In another development, Justice and Information Minister Roger Shaykhani expressed "surprise" at reports that President Amin al-Jumayyil has signed the Lebanese-Israeli agreement, according to Beirut radio. The reports were carried by a number of sources, including Jerusalem, Voice of Lebanon, and Damascus radios. A Damascus radio commentary warned that the Lebanese Government is becoming increasingly subjugated to Israel. The government's behavior has become difficult to separate from Israel's behavior, the radio said, and its "factional" forces called the Lebanese Army are in reality "Phalangist" forces. Progressive Socialist Party leader Walid Junblatt, in an interview with the London magazine *Al-Majallah*, likewise deplored the transformation of President al-Jumayyil's government into a "Phalangist regime." Junblatt stressed that while he remains Syria's ally, he opposes giving Syria a security zone in Lebanon just as he opposes giving Israel such a zone.

Iraq

Iraq holds the international community, and the great powers in particular, as well as the United Nations and the Security Council, responsible for stopping the Iranian-Iraqi conflict and persuading Iran — and even forcing it — to stop the fighting, President Saddam Husayn declared in a 1968 revolution anniversary speech broadcast by Voice of the Masses radio. Criticizing those who have courted the Iranian regime under the cover of mediation in order to achieve "certain future benefits," Saddam Husayn complained that "some states," toward which Iraq had adopted "sincere stands," did not reciprocate Iraq's sincerity in the circumstances of the Iranian-Iraqi war and preferred to adopt the method of "balancing and persuing temporary interests." He contended that Iraq's steadfastness against Iranian expansionism has prevented the entire Arab East from collapsing and called on the Arabs to give Iraq unlimited support within the framework of a comprehensive and long-term pan-Arab stand.

The Iraqi leader singled out Syria for particular criticism, asserting that Syria's support for Iran and its threats against the PLO have prejudiced its chances of receiving Arab assistance in the event of a war with Israel, giving others the excuse to stand idly by. The Iraqis told the Syrian president at the Fes summit that

Syria will need Iraqi support to fight Israel and must, therefore, preserve its relations with Iraq under all circumstances, Saddam Husayn noted. Iraq wants "serious methods" to achieve Arab solidarity, he said, and firmly supports the PLO and its legitimate leadership against any attempt to split, dominate, or weaken the organization.

Iran

In his Friday sermon given at Tehran University, Majlis Speaker 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani touched on the Council of Experts inaugural session, calling it a "stabilizing step," Tehran radio reported. He also referred to the will prepared by Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni which was entrusted to the council. The will reached the council in a "timely" manner, he said, and is one of the most "precious" heritages of the country.

Israel

Relations With Jordan — Jordanian King Husayn has informed Prime Minister Menahem Begin through two U.S. dignitaries that he may be willing to discuss and join the peace process, Jerusalem radio reported citing Cabinet Secretary Dan Meridor. Acting Jordanian Prime Minister 'Adnan Abu 'Awdah "categorically" denied the report, telling AFP that it is "false and baseless," Amman television stated. Meanwhile, Labor Party Chairman Shim'on Peres stated his belief that a settlement with an element of compromise is a viable approach toward the issue of peace in the region and that Israel should adopt a different approach in the territories in order to encourage King Husayn, Jerusalem radio related.

Iranian Arms Sales Denial — A Defense Ministry spokesman denied a *Time* magazine report that Israel is one of Iran's major arms suppliers, stating that Israel has not violated any agreement with the United States barring arms sales to Iran, according to Jerusalem television.

Libyan Involvement in Chad

All OAU member-states must actively assist the legitimate Government in Chad against the "mercenary armies" trained and supplied by Libya and provided with Libyan air cover, Sudanese President Ja'far Numayri declared in a statement to SUNA on 16 July. Chadian authorities subsequently presented a Libyan prisoner to journalists who stated that 1,500 Libyan soldiers are currently fighting alongside 3,000 mercenaries of different nationalities on behalf of former President Goukouni Oueddei, according to SUNA. He added that he had been strictly warned against revealing his nationality if captured, SUNA stated. Meanwhile, the "foreign minister" of the Transitional National Union Government (GUNT) denied that Goukouni's army had any mercenaries but alleged the Habre forces had an armored column manned by Sudanese, Egyptians, and Israelis, AFP noted.

In another development, a GUNT communique issued in Brussels announced that military attacks will not stop so long as foreign troops are in Chad, JANA stated. GUNT both agrees with and supports the OAU recommendations as a basis for negotiations, the communique added. The Chadian Government, meanwhile, rejected the OAU appeal for a cease-fire and announced its refusal to hold a dialogue with Goukouni, SUNA reported citing a Chadian official spokesman.

Syria-Turkey Border Incident

Two Turkish soldiers were killed near the Turkish-Syrian border by unidentified gunmen who opened fire on them from the Syrian side, a "reliable Turkish source" stated according to Radio Monte Carlo.

Gulf States

UAE Petroleum and Natural Resources Minister Dr Mani' Sa'id al-'Utaybah announced that oil prices will remain at $29 a barrel and that there will be no change before the end of 1985, the London paper *Ash-Sharq Al-Awsat* reported. He added that the OPEC ministers meeting in Helsinki will do everything possible to defend the gains achieved at the March conference in London in stabilizing the market.

Afghanistan

DRA Government forces backed by Soviet MIG's launched a series of attacks against rebel forces in a valley south of Kabul 24 June-3 July, AFP reported citing a French medical student who witnessed the fighting. The student said that "more than 10 regiments, 2,000 military vehicles, and some 60 planes and helicopters" took part.

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11-Day Offensive Carried Out in Torgan Valley

BK161656 Hong Kong AFP in English 1646 GMT 16 Jul 83

[Text] Islamabad, July 16 (AFP) — Afghan Government forces backed by Soviet MiG fighter jets carried out an 11-day offensive in the Torgan Valley, south of the capital, Kabul, late last month, a French medical student who witnessed the fighting said here.

Michel Brun, 21, on a humanitarian mission in the area said that rebels fighting the Soviet-backed Babrak Karmal regime retreated at the first sight of reconnaissance planes, though not before mining approaches to the valley. Strafing began on June 24 and the local population fled into the hills to watch helplessly as their villages and livestock were destroyed by bombing raids. After three days of bombardments, helicopters carrying Afghan Government troops arrived for mopping-up operations, firing rockets into any possible hiding places on the mountainside where civilians had fled.

Mr Brun said that more than 10 regiments, 2,000 military vehicles and some 60 planes and helicopters took part in the operation. Some 40 armored cars were blown up by the rebel-placed mines, he added. The young medical student, sent to Afghanistan by a French-based aid outfit, said that when the joint Soviet-Afghan attack ended, July 3, the Mujahedeen guerrillas filtered back into the area. The rebels have been fighting since the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan in December 1979.

Guerrillas Ambush, Capture 19 Officials 16 July

BK171614 Hong Kong AFP in English 1605 GMT 17 Jul 83

[Text] Peshawar, Pakistan, July 17 (AFP) — Afghan rebels yesterday captured 19 Afghan officials, including at least one member of the secret police, in an ambush on the main road from Kabul to the Pakistani border, sources here said today.

The area where the ambush took place is the home of the Shinwari tribe, which supports the ruling communist regime in Kabul, and the vehicle was not under escort when it was attacked. The officials were taken by their captors to an unknown destination, Afghan lorry drivers arriving in Peshawar said.

Karachi Cites Mujahidin Activities in 3 Provinces

BK180707 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 18 Jul 83

[Text] According to reports coming from Afghanistan, mujahidin have intensified their activities against Soviet-Karmal troops in Qandahar, Ghazni, and Wardak Provinces.

According to these reports, in Qandahar Province alone, mujahidin carried out four operations, killing many Soviet-Karmal troops and destroying or damaging many tanks and armored vehicles.

In the other two provinces, mujahidin also carried out many attacks, the biggest being in (Chiragah) near Maidanshahr, where daylong fighting took place. The area later was bombed by the Soviet-Karmal troops.

Prime Minister on Center-State 'Confrontation'

BK151309 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 15 Jul 83

[Excerpts] The prime minister has accused the opposition parties of supporting agitations without realizing their consequences, particularly to the country's economy and development. Mrs Gandhi was addressing a meeting of Congress-I workers in Bangalore today.

Referring to the center-state relationship, the prime minister pointed out that previously there was good cooperation between the center and the opposition-ruled states, but there is now a constant attitude of confrontation. The opposition does not give a straight answer to the question of how the country is to remain united. Instead of consultation and dialogue, they come up only with accustations. Mrs Gandhi said that there is a need for opposition parties but they should be responsible and never do anything that will hurt the nation.

Gandhi on Kashmir, Punjab, Pakistan Issues

BK151617 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 15 Jul 83

[Text] The prime minister today dismissed allegations of the Jammu and Kashmir chief minister, Dr Farooq Abdullah, that the center wishes to topple his government. Mrs Gandhi said that the center never has toppled any government nor desires now to remove any duly elected government. But she made it clear that where the country's security is concerned, all of us have to remain united regardless of political differences. Mrs Gandhi was replying to questions at Bangalore airport before her departure for Delhi after a day's visit to the city.

In an obvious reference to some of the utterances of Mirwaiz Maulana Farooq of the Jammu and Kashmir Awami Action Committee, the prime minister said that country's integrity and national interest are foremost. There is a limit which should not be exceeded in making such irresponsible remarks and questioning the settled facts.

Answering questions about Punjab, the prime minister accused the opposition parties of creating confusion by their inconsistent attitude. Instead of going into each matter raised by the Akali Dal, different parties agreed to different demands. But they conveyed to the Akali Dal that they supported all of their demands. Mrs Gandhi agreed with a reporter that initially the government was perhaps too soft. She said that that was because we thought the problem could be settled if we sat together and involved the opposition as well. But it only delayed matters. Mrs Gandhi said the law and order situation in Punjab has shown a very slight improvement though incidents still take place. But she emphasized that the issue is not of law and order alone. It is much more serious. She said just because the demands are made by an opposition party these cannot be supported if they are going to be harmful in the long run. She said more and more demands are also being added. Mrs Gandhi felt that the pressures that the extemists are exerting on the Akalis are really strong.

The prime minister said the country has to be extra careful in view of Pakistan's strengthening its nuclear installations and borders. She said it is because of these developments that she has been stressing the need for unity of all political parties to fight separatist and divisive forces.

Replying to a question she said the consideration of Pakistan's readmission into the Commonwealth is not on the agenda of the Commonwealth meet.

Narasimha Rao Leaves for Tehran Talks 18 July

BK180701 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 18 Jul 83

[Text] The external affairs minister, Mr Narasimha Rao, left New Delhi for Tehran early this morning on a 5-day visit to take part in the Indian-Iranian joint commission talks.

The inaugural session of the meeting is to be held tomorrow. The commission will explore the possibilities of greater bilateral economic cooperation.

Mr Rao, who is leading a delegation of senior officials of the External Affairs Ministry and various economic ministries, will have wide-ranging discussions with Iranian leaders. Representatives of the Kudremukh Iron Ore Company are also in the delegation. The delegation for the joint commission will cover various subjects like industry, trade, science and technology, education, and culture.

Ambassador to Pakistan on Draft 'No War' Pact

BK170951 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 17 Jul 83

[Text] The proposed Indo-Pak no-war pact will also include a clause that the two countries will not grant military bases to any superpower. This was disclosed by the Indian ambassador to Pakistan Mr K.D. Sharma in an interview to the daily *Jang* published from Islamabad.

Ziaul Haq Leaves for State Visit to Japan 16 Jul

BK160721 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0600 GMT 16 Jul 83

[Text] President General Mohammad Ziaul Haq left Islamabad for Shanghai this morning on his way to Tokyo for a 6-day state visit to Japan.

Talking to newsmen before departure, the president said his visit will pave the way for further consolidating the existing friendly relations between Pakistan and Japan. He said he will hold in-depth discussions with Japanese leaders on bilateral and international matters. (?Preliminary) talks will be on bilateral matters, and we will assess how the great relations between the two countries could be made stronger and become formalized. The talks will cover international issues, including the important issue of Afghanistan. He commended Japan's stand on Afghanistan and said in Pakistan's view Japan's stand is very positive and satisfactory.

When asked whether he will ask for an increase in Japanese assistance, the president said he does not intend to stress anything. Japan is a helpful friend and it is fully aware of our needs. We hope Japan's aid for Pakistan will be according to our expectations.

Answering a question on whether he will touch on technology transfer, the president said that Japan is an extremely developed nation both economically and technically, and it will be our effort to get Japanese assistance in all possible sectors for the technical development of Pakistan. About the trade imbalance between the two countries, the president said, not only Pakistan, Japan also wants to find a way to reduce the trade imbalance.

Among others who saw the president off at the airport were General Mohammad Iqbal Khan, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee; Vice Chief of Army Staff General Sawar Khan; Naval Chief Vice Admiral Tariq Kamal; Air Chief Marshal Mohammad Answar Shamim; Federal Advisory Council Chairman Khwaja Mohammad Safdar; federal ministers and councillors; representatives of diplomatic missions; and high officials.

Radio Pakistan's representative says that the president will arrive in Tokyo tomorrow after an overnight stopover in Shanghai. He will hold two rounds of talks with Japanese Prime Minister Nakasone to discuss matters of bilateral and mutual interest and international issues. The Japanese emperor will host a banquet in honor of the president on Monday. Among those accompanying the president are Federal Ministers Sahabzada Yaqub Khan, Dr Mahbubul Haq, Elahi Box Soomro, and Raja Mohammad Zafarul Haq.

President Zia Sends Messages to PRC Leadership

BK171622 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 17 Jul 83

[Text] On his departure from Shanghai, President Mohammad Ziaul Haq sent messages from his plane addressed separately to the Chinese leaders, expressing fullest satisfaction at the friendly relationship existing between Pakistan and China and saying this relationship is based on principles and mutuality of interest.

In his message to the Chinese president, Li Xiannian, the president said the friendly relationship between the two countries has existed for decades and the changes and vicissitudes occurring within and around the two countries have not in any way affected this relationship. The president said such a durable relationship is a source of great strength for us. The people of Pakistan are looking forward anxiously to the visit of the Chinese president to Pakistan so that they will have the opportunity to welcome their honorable and distinguished guest. He prayed for the continued prosperity and progress of the friendly people of China.

In his message to the Chinese premier, Mr Zhao Ziyang, the president said the hospitality accorded to him and his delegation in Shanghai is an expression of the feeling of respect and honor for Pakistan.

The president also sent a message to the mayor of Shanghai, Mr Wang Daohan, expressing gratitude for the hospitality accorded him and his delegation.

Advisory Council To Discuss Form of Government

BK161107 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1005 GMT 16 Jul 83

[Text] The Majlis-i-Shoora [advisory council] meeting in Islamabad on Saturday next will take up for consideration the report of its 30-member committee on the future form of government and submit its recommendations as soon as possible. The chairman of the Majlis-i-Shoora, Khwaja Mohammad Safdar, told Radio Pakistan's representative in Islamabad today that discussions on the federal budget would be held later.

Review Commission To Report to President by 31 Jul

BK171026 Karachi Overseas Service in Urdu 0800 GMT 17 Jul 83

[Text] The 14-member commission appointed by the president to review various reports on proposed forms of government began its meeting in Islamabad this morning. After reviewing all reports on the subject, the commission will present its report to the president by 31 July. The meeting is chaired by the commission chairman, Maulana Zafar Ahamad Ansari.

MRD Leader Calls for End to Martial Law

BK171254 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 17 Jul 83

[Text] The leader of the eight-party Movement for Restoration of Democracy in Pakistan, Khan Abdul Wali Khan, has asked the military regime to lift martial law in the country and restore democratic rights of the people. He told PTI in London that the country is passing through a grave crisis and unless martial law is ended, Pakistan will plunge into a civil war. Mr Wali Khan strongly favors friendship between the peoples of India and Pakistan.

DAWN Examines Trade Possibilities With Iran

GF151120 Karachi Dawn in English 10 Jul 83 P 1

[From the Economic and Business Review supplement]

[Text] The Iranian ambassador's policy declaration, that his country wants to buy everything it needs from Pakistan and will buy from others only that Pakistan cannot supply, offers a great opportunity to this country's trade and industry. Although this is said to be the same formulation that is being used by Iranians in Turkey also, that should not detract anything from its importance.

Indeed, the same policies toward Pakistan and Turkey do not conflict with each other. Anyone can see that it is the continuation of the same perception of national interest in Tehran that earlier had given birth to the RCD [Regional Cooperation for Development], CENTO, and Saadabad Pact. This is, in fact, a guarantee that the policy is going to be stuck to. Whereby hangs all the opportunity we can seize now or in the near future when Iran begins its postwar reconstruction.

It is pointless to enumerate the quantum of Iranian needs; everyone knows Iran is an oil-producing developing country that is unlikely to waste its resources in entirely useless consumption. And that when its reconstruction starts it is going to be a very substantial effort.

Greater attention should, therefore, be paid by our industry and commerce as well as the Export Promotion Bureau to the precise lines of thought now in favour in Iran on the subject; we should be ready when the demand for our goods and services increases.

The upcoming visit of the Iranian President Hojjat ol-Eslam Khamene'i would be an occasion of crucial importance; long-term economic ties should be sought and we should, after sizing up the potential of future Pakistan-Iran trade and economic exchanges, draw up a plan of our own so that we are not left improvising the infrastructure for the enhanced exchanges when they materialise. The recent growth in this trade is a forerunner of what may come later.

As it is, there are severe limits from Pakistan side in the growth of the current trade; it cannot be said we are exploiting all the opportunities we do have in the current needs of the Iranian economy. What is holding up an optimal expansion that may be necessary?

There are two main roadblocks. The first and fundamental one is that Pakistan economy does not have a large exportable surplus either in agricultural commodities or industrial goods. That is, for the present, an absolute limit. Even so, we do have some surpluses, like wheat expected to be 200,000 tons in 1983-84. Then the second one is more remediable. It is transport that is the bottleneck. Our trade with Iran is already suffering on this score.

Let us see what have we to export: rice, wheat, sugar, smaller quantities of meats, eggs, fruits and vegetables, cotton, cotton yarn, man-made fibre yarn, cloth, leather and other industrial bric-a-brac that we might be able to make and spare. Insofar as sugar is concerned the much tom-tommed surplus has performed the vanishing trick; now no one seems to be talking about it (people say, it has been smuggled to, of all the places, Afghanistan).

On the reverse side, we can import oil and oil products and a few minor items; already the Iranians are giving us oil at substantially less than world prices — which would make a case for some reduction in our prices.

But there are larger questions that have to be addressed too. Among them two deserve special attention. One is whether we do want a large-scale trade expansion and greater economic collaboration with Iran. While none of it need be at the expense of third parties, it is impossible not to ignore the easily-inferrable tendency in some Gulf states to look askance at this while they themselves may not be in a position to offer an equally attractive alternative to Pakistan.

It is indeed easy on rational grounds to conclude that we cannot find any other export market of comparable size for the foreseeable agricultural surplus that should be ours if the present rate of agricultural growth continues. The smaller Gulf states, as a whole, do constitute an alternative. But would that be available to us as the Iranian one may be? Not very likely. For, much of that market is already sliced off by developed nations.

If the decision is to seize our opportunities of expanding our economic ties with Iran and it is sure to be powerfully supported by geopolitical reasons — if Pakistan is close to Southwest Asia, it is closer to sensitive Iran rather than to the southern shores of the Persian Gulf — we have to think purposefully of increasing Iran's exports to Pakistan. For we cannot have only one-way trade with a country. What imports can we increase from Iran?

That commodity is oil. Iranians had shown readiness to enter into a long-term commitment to provide Pakistan all the oil it needs at substantially concessional rates in 1969-70. The government must have all the particulars of that offer. Its spirit, though not the details, can be revived. Now is the time to think hard, decide and do the groundwork.

The second issue that has to be attended to is to remove the transport bottleneck. If a substantial increase in exchanges is desired, this deficiency has to be removed. Pakistan Railways proved to be a disappointment.

In part, there are other reasons also. For one thing, the return journey for the wagons is generally empty; that increases the real freight cost per one-way trip. The Iranian facilities at Zahedan are limited; they tend to delay by using wagons as a sort of warehouse. The nature-given gradient west of Sibbi is steep, requiring each goods train to be split into three and each train requiring two locomotives. Then, there is an overall wagon shortage, enhanced by mismanagement and inefficiency.

Insofar as trucking the goods is concerned, there were more difficulties, that are now being sorted out; there will soon be a bilateral trucking agreement after which private Pakistani trucks will be able to deliver goods in Iran wherever they may be needed.

The earlier difficulty was that there was no bilateral agreement and Iran, being a member of the international trucking arrangement, wanted Pakistan to enter the same arrangement. But that was not acceptable to Pakistan authorities. Why?

Because that involved giving the same rights in Pakistan or through Pakistan to all others, including India which is a member. Since, Pakistan has never agreed to overland trade transit through its territories, especially to India and other Europeans, including the Russians, it is still unwilling to enter an international arrangement that will permit through international trucking over most of southern Asia.

But this policy dates from the time when Pakistan did not wish to normalise relations with India and was afraid of permitting Indian bulk trade through Pakistan's roadways. Now, things have changed; Pakistan is offering a no-war pact. It is time the policy framework is reviewed.

Briefs

Economic Projections — The country's exports during the next financial year are expected to grow in dollar terms by 11 percent, including a 6 percent growth in volume. This information was given to the Federal Cabinet meeting in Rawalpindi on 29 June when it discussed next year's foreign exchange budget. The meeting was told that export earnings during the current financial year will be slightly above the target of $2.60 billion. While presenting the assessment of the remittances by overseas Pakistanis, the Cabinet was told that these remittances are likely to increase by 28 percent. It is expected that this year's earnings in this sector will be $2.85 billion as compared to the $2.24 billion last year. It is expected that the foreign exchange reserves by the end of next financial year will be about $2 billion. [Excerpts] [Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 30 Jun 83 BK]

SRI LANKA

SUN Reports on Freedom Party 'Crisis'

Officials Resign

BK151430 Colombo Sun in English 2 Jul 83 p 1

[Text] T.B. Ilangaratne, deputy president of the SLFP [Sri Lanka Freedom Party], and V.W. Kularatne, vice president, relinquished their posts yesterday.

Among the issues that brought about their resignations, informed party sources told *Sun*, were sharp differences between Anura Bandaranaike and other stalwarts. It had been a matter relating to the formation of a national government, the information on Naxalites from within the party, the declared policies, of the party, and above all Mrs Bandaranaike's inability to resolve these issues.

Both senior members of the party declined comment on these matters.

Mr Ilangaratne however said a number of events since the defeat of the party in 1977 imposed heavy responsibility and challenges to party members and those at the helm of affairs.

"There were several occasions when I wanted to step down but the importance of keeping the party together over other considerations compelled me to stay. There came the breakaway of the Maithri group over which I thought I took the correct decision and stayed with the leadership" he said.

Mr Ilangaratne said: "Then came the presidential election and I was disappointed that the party hierarchy failed to do its best. At the referendum, certain utterances by important persons on the formation of a national government contrary to declared policy caused failure by the party. At the by-elections members of the party made statements in public contrary to party decisions and principles. In this exercise I felt that I cannot continue in this way any more since I have to face many odds and as important people in the party are involved. I therefore considered it would be best for the party and the people that I leave this task to some others as I do not wish to share the responsibility of our failure in maintaining the necessary discipline."

Kobbekaduwa Resigns

BK151432 Colombo Sun in English 5 Jul 83 p 1

[By Winston de Valliere]

[Excerpt] Hector Kobbekaduwa, a senior vice-president of the SLFP [Sri Lanka Freedom Party] and its official candidate at last October's presidential elections, resigned from the post of vice-president and also from the Central Committee yesterday.

He became the third vice-president of the party to resign over the past four days, thus plunging the party into a deeper crisis.

New Members Appointed

BK151434 Colombo Sun in English 7 Jul 83 p 1

[Text] Former MP for Ampara, Somaratne Senarath, and former MP for Yapahuwa, Tissa Balalla, have been appointed to the Central Committee of the Sri Lanka Freedom Party by its leader Mrs Sirimavo Bandaranaike.

The Central Committee which met yesterday with Mrs Bandaranaike in the chair at her Rosmead Place residence discussed proposals for the reorganisation of the party and the resignations of T. B. Ilangaratne, Hector Kobbekaduwa and V. W. Kularatne.

Mrs Bandaranaike is expected to make a statement shortly on the reorganisation of the party, a spokesman said yesterday.

Convention Called

BK151436 Colombo Sun in English 8 Jul 83 p 1

[Text] SLFP's [Sri Lanka Freedom Party] Central Committee which met on Wednesday has decided to convene the Executive Committee meeting and the annual Party Convention, which have not been held since 1977.

The move followed a crisis in the party, which resulted in several members of the hierarchy resigning.

A motion calling upon party members not to be fooled by "various allegations and falsehoods" made by the United National Party was also passed.

The motion alleges that the government is responsible for the present situation in the SLFP and that under cover of the Naxalite investigations it has used the CID to elicit information about the party. This information was then utilised to disrupt the party process, it has alleged.

Tamil Leader Appeals to President Jayewardene

BK171032 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 17 Jul 83

[Text] The Tamil Nadu chief minister, Mr M.G. Ramachandran, has appealed to President Jayewardene of Sri Lanka to find a just solution to the problems faced by Tamils on the island. Addressing a function to celebrate the 81st of birth anniversary of the late K. Kamraj, he said in the name of putting down violence innocent people should not be harassed. The chief minister also disclosed that he would expand his Cabinet.

President Jayewardene Speaks on Situation in Jaffna

BK171142 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 17 Jul 83

[Text] The president has said that the people in Jaffna are treated as equal citizens of Sri Lanka whatever their views might be. The people in the north are suffering grave hardship without food, oil,

and petrol. These goods had to be supplied by the south. Some have made accusations that there had been a deliberate stoppage in supply. However, he noted that this situation had developed because the people in Jaffna had refused to disclose any information about the terrorists.

Mr Jayewardene was speaking at a ceremony in Colombo yesterday. A just government has to treat all citizens alike. This is what the present government is doing. He said that food supplies would be assured to the area.

Referring to the situation in the north, the president said that while food supplies could be sent by ship or plane, petrol and oil could not be sent except by train. Certain trains have been damaged and there is a shortage of compartments. However, the government had to take measures and act without discrimination. That was what was meant by just rule.

President Jayewadene pointed out that the foundation had been made to fulfill the difficult task of building a united and just society. The government made laws to guarantee the rights of every citizen. Although from time to time emergency regulations had to be put into operation, Mr Jayewardene stressed that the people were enjoying the fullest democratic freedom and right.

3 Parties Not To Attend Antiterrorism Meeting

BK180811 Hong Kong AFP in English 0750 GMT 18 Jul 83

[Text] Colombo, July 18 (AFP) — Three out of Sri Lanka's four parliamentary opposition parties have declined President Junius Jayewardene's invitation to map out a joint strategy against terrorism by northern Tamil separatists, informed sources said today.

The main parliamentary opposition party, the Tamil United Liberation Front (TULF), yesterday wrote to President Jayewardene declining the invitation to Wednesday's conference.

At a TULF committee meeting yesterday, it said its decision not to attend was because the conference was isolating one aspect of the problem without seeking solutions to the grievances of the Tamil people, sources said.

The major Sinhala opposition group, the Sri Lanka Freedom Party (SLFP), headed by former Premier Sirimavo Bandaranaike, meets today to decide its position.

Mr. Jayewardene called the meeting of all parliamentary parties following the escalation of violence by northern Tamil separatists this month and is seeking a consensus for a tough anti-terrorism strategy, sources said.

This month, militants attacked several state institutions, damaging property and setting ablaze train cars, buses and state vehicles in their demand for an independent state.

Food and fuel supplies to the north were disrupted after these attacks, sources said.

Earlier two other opposition parties, the pro-Soviet Communist Party and the People's United Front (MEP), each with a single member in Parliament, turned down the invitation.

They also said that the conference [words indistinct] limited to discussing terrorism and not the larger question of ethnic relations and its related issues.

It is understood that Mr. Jayewardene has written to the Communist Party saying that he was prepared to expand the scope of the conference. However, there has not been no response [as received] yet from the communists.

Meanwhile, one of the militants shot dead by the army on Friday during a gun battle in the north has been identified as the leader of the military wing of the outlawed Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), security sources said.

Charles Anton was killed when armed militants clashed with an army search team which had gone to a coconut plantation on a tip-off.

Security forces consider this a major breakthrough as Mr. Anton was believed to have been involved in several robberies and killings of servicemen.

Syrian Minister Arrives With Al-Asad Message 17 Jul

LD171752 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 17 Jul 83

[Text] Syrian Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Faruq ash-Shar' arrived in Tehran this afternoon to meet and hold talks with Iranian officials. He was welcomed by our country's deputy foreign minister.

He reportedly bears a message from the Syrian president to President Khamene'i.

Reportage on Council of Experts Meetings

16 July Session

LD161229 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 16 Jul 83

[Text] The Council of Experts held a session this morning, chaired by Ayatollah Meshkini, at the Feziyeh seminary, a place of science and exegesis of divine law, in Qom. According to IRNA, after the agenda was announced, the venue of future sessions of the Council of Experts was voted on. It was decided to hold future sessions in Tehran.

According to this IRNA report, after this session, there was registration of names of candidates to form the commission to review Article 111 of the Constitution. The session ended at 1230 hours. Congregational prayers were then held under the leadership of Ayatolla Meshkini.

17 July Session

LD172251 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 17 Jul 83

[Text] The Council of Experts held a session today chaired by Ayatollah Meshkini and attended by nearly all members. During this session, which was held on the premises of the Islamic Consultative Assembly, the internal regulations of the Council of Experts sessions were discussed. Eight articles pertaining to these regulations were ratified.

The next open session of the council will be held at 0800.

Reconstruction Crusade Praise

LD162220 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 16 Jul 83

[Text] In connection with the establishment of the Council of Experts and the prime minister's recent remarks about solving economic difficulties, the central office of the Reconstruction Crusade issued a statement.

Referring to plots hatched by agents of the East and the West, the statement says: The establishment of the first session of the Council of Experts is a fateful step in the massive movement of the Islamic nation; it has rendered the superpowers and the Eastern and Western world-devourers despondent in their diabolical countering of the Hezbollah.

The statement also supports the sacred move launched by the prime minister to bring about social and economic justice and to combat decisively the black rings and economic terrorists.

Khomeyni's Son Confers With Grand Ayatollahs

LD162249 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 16 Jul 83

[Text] Hojjat ol-Eslam Haj Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni [Khomeyni's son] met and conferred today separately with Grand Ayatollahs Mar'ashi Najafi and Montazeri.

Majlis Speaker, Montazeri Discuss Domestic Issues, War

LD171209 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 17 Jul 83

[Excerpt] The Central News Unit reports that Majlis Speaker Hashemi-Rafsanjani, who was on a visit to Qom to take part in the sessions of the Council of Experts at the Fayziyeh school, met Grand Ayatollah Montazeri yesterday and discussed with him the country's various issues.

During the meeting, Grand Ayatollah Montazeri made recommendations on and stressed the need for greater attention by concerned government and officials to the causes for high prices and hoarding and to urgent action on the proper distribution of food items and public necessities. He also offered certain guidelines for a better integration [jazb] and cohesion of combatant forces at the battlefronts with the mercenaries of the Zionist Iraqi regime.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Gives Friday Sermon 15 July

LD151448 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 15 Jul 83

[Excerpts] On the first Friday after the blessed month of Ramadan, millions of Muslim and God-seeking compatriots all over our Islamic homeland today took part in the glorious religious-political ceremonies of the Friday paryers and once again demonstrated the impenetrable unity of the Islamic nation by taking part in this eternal Mohammedan tradition. The masses of Muslim and ever-militant people took part in the unifying Friday prayers at the University of Tehran today under the imamate of Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Hashemi-Rafsanjani, ad interim Friday imam of Tehran.

In the second sermon of the Friday prayers, Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Hashemi-Rafsanjani talked about the anniversary of the abortive coup d'etat of Nowzheh, the inauguration of the great Council of Experts, the important will and testament of the imam as a great source of strength in the Islamic Republic of Iran, and the week of hygiene.

At the start of the sermon, referring to the anniversary of the defeated coup d'etat of Nowzheh, he said: We have not yet fully discussed and analyzed this issue. The Nowzheh base in Hamadan is one of the country's most important airbases which is standing against the enemy like a shield, and the people will not forget their pride in this base.

The ad interim Friday imam of Tehran then referred to the repeated conspiracies of the agents of the counterrevolution, the hypocrites and the Tudeh in the course of the defeated Nowzheh coup d'etat: On the eve of the incident of the Nowzheh coup, a clue was found and the mother of one of the officers, who knew about this coup d'etat, forced her son to present himself to the Vali-ye 'Asr Garrison and divulge his information on the matter to the responsible officials of the Islamic Republic of Iran. It was God's mercy that was granted to the nation through an Iranian mother. The agents of the coup d'etat were arrested by the self-sacrificing guards outside Zhaleh Park.

The ad interim Friday imam of Tehran added: The United States set in motion this state of affairs, but it did not know our nation and our society. God's grace and the enemy's misfortune led to the discovery of this plot.

Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Hashemi-Rafsanjani then referred to the convening of the Council of Experts:

[Begin recording] The issue of the inauguration of the Council of Experts, for which we were waiting, is a stabilizing step and a source of trust and peace of mind for our society. Looking at that assembly at yesterday's session I was strongly impressed by it. I was mostly thinking about the session, the faces and personalities; it is difficult to imagine the value of these personalities individually. I felt calm and comfortable with peace of mind when I saw all those just and emminent sources of imitation, who have won the people's trust and the backing of their 18 million votes.

They sat at this assembly in order to reassure the people on the future of the leadership issue. They will give the people the most important strength of this revolution, that is, the leadership, and the most important factor for being Islamic, that is, the legality of the government under the leadership of velayat-e faqih. We feel secure and comfortable to see that affairs are in the hands of such an assembly. What a great privilege this is for you, the nation of Iran. We cannot praise ourselves, our friends, and those who wear the same cloak too much, but we should appreciate these people who have won the trust of the people in their own cities and areas. They are trustworthy people; they are learned, pious strugglers, militant and prepared to sacrifice themselves. They can never be persuaded to trample on justice; they combine their decisions with their faith. To have such people will always reassure us that our water will never be polluted from the fountainhead. [reference to Persian proverb that corruption in society originates from the top, from the ruler]

The imam's will and testament reached us in timely manner. Of course, I, the same as you, do not know the content of the imam's will and testament. I only know that the imam has taken much care and patience in writing those 30 pages. Certainly, those 30 pages written by the imam in his own handwriting can be one of the most important precious heritages in determining the destiny and future policy of this country. This is certain, because his holiness has been engaged for a long time writing this. Several months ago he graciously told me: I am writing my will and testament, my political will and testament for the future, expressing my views.

Of course, I am not aware of the subject and contents of the will and testament, and his holiness did not tell us anything about it either. But the outcome pleased us. It made us happy to see that his holiness found the time and opportunity to write this. We found another hope in that in the future, when this nation feels in need of some guidance, such guidance will be provided in our history. God willing, we hope that such a day will never come, but if such a day does come about after several decades, and God willing after us, then the guidance is provided. [end recording]

At the end of today's Friday prayer sermons, while emphasizing that reactionary Arab rulers have damaged the honor of the Arabs and created the worst problems for the Arab world, Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Hashemi-Rafsanjani read a sermon in Arabic to our Muslim Arab brothers and sisters.

Lebanese Army Operations Criticized

Foreign Ministry Spokesman

LD181042 Tehran IRNA in English 0942 GMT 18 Jul 83

[Text] Tehran, July 17 IRNA — The attack by the Lebanese Phalangist Army on the deprived Muslim people of Lebanon is deplorable, especially since they are under the most severe repression by the criminal Zionist regime and have undergone great suffering. It was an inhumanistic act perpetrated to fulfill the Zionist regime's desires, a Foreign Ministry spokesman of the Islamic Republic of Iran said today.

The spokesman, commenting on the recent attack of the Lebanese Phalange Army on the homeless nomadic people of Lebanon further added that this assault was launched at a time when the disgraceful Zionist Lebanese accord was being approved to divert the attention of the people from the enactment of their beastly plot.

The Islamic Republic condemns the measures adopted towards the deprived Muslim people of Lebanon which is merely an extension of the policies of the Zionist regime to disunite and disperse the Muslims. It also announces that such force against the revolutionary Muslim people of Lebanon would only make them more staunch and united in their struggle against the Zionists.

Prime Minister

F180818 Tehran International Service in Arabic 0700 GMT 18 Jul 83

[Excerpt] The prime minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran made a statement yesterday to our correspondent, in which he condemned the latest crimes committed by the Army of the Lebanese regime and which led to the martyrdom and wounding

of a number of Muslims in Lebanon. He said: The Phalangists have always been the internal military arm of the United States and of the regime that usurped Jerusalem and that is staying in Lebanon. He added: The latest attack launched by the Lebanese Army against the Muslims is designed to strengthen the positions of the Zionists and of the imperialists in this country.

The prime minister stressed the need to continue the armed struggle against the United States and the Zionists, who usurped Jerusalem, and to annihilate them in Lebanon. He regarded the awareness of the masses as being a new factor on the political arena in Lebanon.

The prime minister expressed hope that this novel action will pave the way for the victory of the Muslim people in Lebanon.

Oil Minister Departs for Helsinki OPEC Meeting

LD161306 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 16 Jul 83

[Text] Our correspondent reports that Petroleum Minister Gharazi, leading an Islamic Republic delegation, left for Helsinki this morning to take part in the OPEC ministerial conference. The report adds that the ordinary session of OPEC ministerial conference will open in Helsinki on 18 July, running for 2 days. Among the important subjects to be raised at the conference is the implementation of the decisions made at the earlier emergency session of OPEC on production rates and pricing as well as the election of a new secretary general.

Before his departure, the oil minister said reports by the OPEC supervisory committee indicate that the member countries have adhered to earlier decisions on the production ceiling and pricing. This has already shown positive effects.

One of the topics to be raised at this session, a topic which is of certain importance to the Islamic Republic of Iran, is the election of a new secretary general for the next 2 years. On the basis of the OPEC Charter, the new secretary general should be elected from our country. We have already fulfilled our tasks in this respect and this should be supported by OPEC.

Finance Official Reports on OPEC Fund Meeting

GF161711 Tehran IRNA in English 1613 GMT 16 Jul 83

[Text] Tehran, July 16, IRNA — In the meeting of the finance ministers of OPEC due to be held in Vienna next week, the new chairman of the OPEC Fund for International Development will be elected, said the deputy minister of economics and financial affairs, Ebrahim 'Arab Zadeh here, today.

'Arab Zadeh, who was recently in Vienna to attend the July 7th meeting of the fund, said that two methods were proposed for resolving the existing disputes on electing the new chairman of the fund. The first one proposed election through elimination. The second suggested that the governing board comprising representatives of the 13 OPEC members should temporarily run the fund until a chairman is chosen, he added.

'Arab Zadeh hoped that the forthcoming ministerial meeting in Vienna would solve the problem.

As for the financial obligations of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the fund, he said that the fund placed the Islamic Republic's liabilities at 200 million dollars. However, Iran has announced that due to expenditures of the 34-month old Iraqi imposed war, at present it would not be able to contribute to the fund. Yet, despite problems created by the Iraqi imposed war, he added Iran has recently contributed its share of 12 and a half M. dollars for the year 1983.

Antipollution Committee Discusses Gulf Oil Slick

GF161757 Tehran IRNA in English 1711 GMT 16 Jul 83

[Text] Tehran, July 16, IRNA — The headquarters for coordinating anti-pollution activities in the Persian Gulf held its eighth session here today.

The session was chaired by deputy premier and head of environmental protection organisation of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Mr. Mirza Taheri.

During the session a report on the visit by the Islamic Republic's team of experts to Bahrain was presented. The session approved, by majority of votes, the Islamic Republic's suggestions and policies regarding the control of oil slick and cleaning of Persian Gulf waters.

The session also studied the result of the methods experimented on July 8 in order to control the oil slick in Persian Gulf.

Armed Forces Joint Staff Issues Communiques

Communique No 1,377

LD151753 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 15 jul 83

[Communique No 1,377 of Joint Staff of Armed Forces of Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In His exalted name. The public hereby is informed of the situation at the imposed warfronts and battles of mighty warriors of Islam in their battle of right against wrong.

Sporadic exchanges of fire continued yesterday on most of the country's western fronts. Combatants of Islam continued to consolidate their defensive positions, protect their relevant regions, answer the Saddamist forces' fire, halt Iraqi forces' fire, and inflict losses and casualties on the Saddamist mercenaries — to the extent that on the Marivan front, after having brought enemy positions in Biareh and Panjwin under fire, enemy forces' movements were halted, and as a result of the destruction of one Saddamist building, a considerable number of Iraqis were either killed or wounded.

On the frontier region of Baneh, our combatants succeeded in leveling Iraqi forces' positions in several points, setting fire to a number of other Iraqi bunkers and positions, and killing a number of Iraqi personnel.

On the Ilam and Bayat fronts, valiant men of the Gendarmerie reciprocated Saddamist fire. They halted enemy fire, destroyed part of their positions, and killed more than 10 Iraqi mercenaries in the Bayat region.

On the southern fronts, warriors of Islam in full awareness brought under control all enemy movement, attempts to change position, consolidation of defensive positions, and engineer activities; they obstructed enemy movements and inflicted losses on the enemy through defensive fire and patrols.

During exchanges of fire on the Abadan and Khoramshahr fronts, combatants of Islam consisting of valiant men of the Gendarmerie and the Navy, opened fire on Saddamist positions and fortifications across the Arvand Rud, and in addition to halting Iraqi forces' engineering activities and attempts to consolidate defensive positions, killed or injured a number of the enemy force.

Yesterday the cities of Abadan and Khorramshahr were under heavy and sporadic Saddamist fire, as a result of which three houses in Abadan were destroyed and two of our dear compatriots were injured. In Khorramshahr, a number of places were gutted.

During the past 24 hours, as a result of the Air Force's tactical operations and fire of air defense units of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran, one aggressor aircraft of the Iraqi forces trying to violate the airspace of our Islamic homeland was driven off.

[Signed] Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran

Communique No 1,378

LD161949 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 16 Jul 83

[Communique No 1,378 of Joint Staff of Armed Forces of Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In His exalted name. Operations by the combatants of Islam continued during the past 24 hours with firing on the enemy's trenches and emplacements. On each front, effective blows were dealt to the Saddamist forces.

In the Marivan region, as a result of fire by our forces on enemy positions near the Khurmal-Sayyid Sadiq axis, two machineguns, one 120-mm mortar launcher emplacement, and two vehicles belonging to the Saddamists were destroyed. In the Zanan Bridge area, the bridge sustained some damage and a vehicle was set on fire. Also, our fighting units opened fire on Ghazanfari post and inflicted damage and casualties on the Saddamist mercenaries.

On the Western fronts, exchanges of fire continued and the powerful combatants of Islam, while defending the areas under their protection, continued defensive fire. The intensity of the exchanges of fire against Salehabad and Shurshirin was greater than at other fronts.

In battle operations carried out on the southern fronts during the past 24 hours, due to the intensive fie by our artillery, all enemy activities were foiled and the forces of Islam, while defending their positions, disrupted enemy engineering operations all along the lines of contact. Yesterday, as a result of fire by enemy long-range weapons, one house was demolished in Abadan.

[Signed] Joint Staff of Armed Forces of Islamic Republic of Iran

Communique No 1,379

LD171753 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 17 Jul 83

[Communique No 1,379 of Joint Staff of Armed Forces of Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In His exalted name. During the past 24 hours, a sporadic exchange of artillery and heavy weapons fire between the combatants of Islam and the Iraqi Ba'thist aggressors continued on most of the western fronts. While strengthening their defensive positions, our forces neutralized movement of the Iraqi forces and returned their fire, silencing enemy fire and inflicting losses and casualties. A number of enemy forces were killed in the Baneh border region.

In the Marivan sector, Ground Forces combatants brought enemy positions and supply points under artillery fire, destroying several trenches and, on the whole, part of their positions as well as killing or injuring a number of enemy personnel.

Around 2400 on 15 July, Iraqi patrol groups intended to approach our forces' defensive lines on one of the Bakhtaran border fronts. However, they were forced to flee thanks to the retaliation of the forces of Islam.

In the Sar Dasht border regions, a number of enemy bunkers along with their crews were set on fire thanks to the actions of our forces.

On the southern fronts, the victorious combatants of Islam continued the battle defensively. By defending their positions and by dispatching patrol groups, they kept enemy movements under control and silenced enemy heavy weapons' fire.

At 2100 on 15 July, an enemy patrol group in the (?Zobeyda) sector was identified by the ever-wakeful combatants of Islam. It came under fire before approaching our defensive positions and was forced to flee after suffering losses and casualties. Yesterday, Abadan received some damage as a result of enemy fire. Two houses were wrecked and parts of the city's installations were damaged.

During the past 24 hours, the defenders of the country's airspace prevented any intended enemy aerial aggression.

[Signed] Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran

Prime Minister Discusses Provincial Problems
GF171655 Shiraz Domestic Service in Persian 1400 GMT 17 Jul 83

[Text] According to a report by the Central News Unit, Mr Qambari, governor general of Boyer Ahmad va Kohkilyeh Province, along with his political, administrative, and development under secretaries and governors of this province met Prime Minister Mir-Hoseyn Musavi this morning.

In this meeting, the problems and difficulties of the province of Boyer Ahmad va Kohkiluyeh were brought to the attention of the prime minister and he issued necessary instructions.

Clashes Reported From Esfahan,Tabriz,Mashhad
GF151549 (Clandestine) Radio Iran in Persian 1330 GMT 15 Jul 83

[Text] Scattered clashes have been reported from Esfahan, Tabriz,and Mashhad between the people and the armed religionists.

It was reported in Esfahan that during the course of 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani's speech in Esfahan some time ago, the Ey Iran anthem was suddenly played instead of the Islamic Republic's anthem from the loudspeakers at the civic gathering. This caused pandemonium in the audience.

Radio Iran Reports Guards Sent To Reinforce Zanjan
GF151547 (Clandestine) Radio Iran in Persian 1330 GMT 15 Jul 83

[Text] A group of guards from Hamedan arrived in Zanjan to reinforce the guards in that city.

According to reports reaching here, Khomeyni's armed forces in Zanjan have not been able to stem the tide of the people's anger and patriotism in this city.

Seda-ya Iran Cites Internal Cabinet Disputes
GF120944 (Clandestine) Seda-ye Iran in Persian 1930 GMT 11 Jul 83

[Text] The internal disputes which have become well-known to rightists and others have drastically increased and Musavi's interview, the important parts if which were broadcast in yesterday's news program on Iranian radio, indicates the depth of the trouble.

Informed sources report there is a possibility that if these clashes continue, and Asgar-Owladi is not forced to resign, then Mir-Hoseyn Musavi will resign. He immediately will be offered the chance to form a new Cabinet. Of course, this new Cabinet will not include Asgar-Owladi and his followers.

IRNA Reports Linking Up of Two Afghan Organizations
GF131806 Tehran IRNA in English 1627 GMT 13 Jul 83

[Text]0 Tehran, July 13, IRNA — The Islamic Movement for the Deprived People of Afghanistan in a declaration today announced that it was linking up with the United Front of the Islamic Revolution of Afghanistan to further strengthen noble Islamic organisations and groups.

A part of the message said the present situation demands the unity of various Islamic organisations and groups especially those following the path of Imam Khomeyni.

The declaration said that the victory and the destiny of the Islamic revolution of Afahanistan is dependent on the unity of the Muslim people of the country. It said that all noble Islamic organisations must consolidate ranks aimed at the ideal Islamic unity.